(c) and (d) The per capita net availability of foodgrains as per latest economic survey, was 476.4 grams per day in 1990 and 474.2 grams in 1994. The estimates of 1994 are provisional and the difference of 2.2 grams is very marginal.

(e) Number of people suffering from hunger as on 1.7.1995 and during the last three years are not available.

Computer Software sectors in European Union and Japan

1848. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that neither the European Union nor Japan have agreed to open up their Computer Software sectors to foreign officials;

(b) whether U.S. has liberalised entry of Computer Software; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) As a part of the Uruguay Round Market Access Package on Services, the US, the European Union (EU) and Japan have undertaken to liberalise market access in the computer and related services sector. As far as access to foreign service providers in this sector is concerned, all three have undertaken to bind commitments on the entry of natural persons with commercial presence viz; intra-corporate transferes and business visitors.

In addition, the US and European Union have also undertaken to liberalise the entry of natural persons as service providers without commercial presence.

Loss of export revenue due to shortage of cranes to load foredgrains

1849. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is losing billions of dollars in export revenues because there are not enough cranes to load foodgrains into ships at major ports;

(b) whether the study carried out by the Technology, Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) of the Department of science & Technology reveals that almost 40% of India's agricultural exportable surplus does not find its way into international markets due to inadequate infrastructure for transportation; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Expansion of exports has brought into focus infrastructural issues. Resort to any specific port in excessive measure for movement of the bulk of foodgrains of export cargo tends to cause congestion. Export of foodgrains, therefore, is being arranged through various ports, major and minor, unrestrained, *inter alia*, by hosting capacities.

(b) and (c) The Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council's (TIFAC's) studies are in the context of containerisation technology and regrigerated transit. The Government export thrust places like emphasis on containerisation and movement of reefer cargoes.

मध्य प्रदेश में तम्बाकू और बीड़ी कामगार

1850. **श्री अजीत जोगी:**

श्री मूलचन्द मीणा:

क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में तम्बाकू और बीड़ी कामगारों की कुल संख्या कितनी है;

(ख) इन कामगारों के लिए न्यूनतम वेतन की निर्धारित दर क्या है; और

(ग) न्यूनतम वेतन के उचित कार्यान्वयन हेतु सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाए हैं?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री पी॰ए॰ संगमा): (क) मध्य प्रदेश में बीड़ी कर्मकारों की अनुमानित संख्या 6.60 लाख है।

(ख) एक हज़ार बीड़ियां लपेटने के लिए न्यूनतम मजदूरी की दर 14.10.93 से 22.50 रु॰ है।